

free food, free clothing, free shelter, free health care, free transportation, free entertainment, and billions of dollars a year in fraudulent tax refunds to illegal aliens and then wonder why we have an illegal alien crisis.

Second, illegal alien children from Central America and Mexico must be treated equally—prompt returns to parents and homes without costly and time-consuming deportation hearings. All contrary laws must be repealed or amended.

Third, America must immediately fly illegal alien children home by the least expensive means possible. It costs as little as \$258 at cheapflightnow.com to fly from Houston to Managua, Nicaragua. United Airlines flies from San Antonio to Guatemala City for as little as \$363 and to San Salvador, El Salvador, for as little as \$292.

At roughly \$300 a pop, it costs less than \$20 million to fly 60,000 illegal alien children home. That is everyone so far this fiscal year. If America used C-5 military aircraft and counted flight time as pilot training time, the cost is even less.

Given America's perilous financial condition, the illegal alien children surge issue must be considered in the context of America's debt threat that risks a debilitating American insolvency and bankruptcy.

President Obama demands \$3.7 billion to spend in just the next few months on a policy that does not solve the illegal alien children problem. Think about that. The President proposes spending \$3.7 billion to not solve the problem. Yet spending \$20 million wisely does solve the problem.

Mr. Speaker, this is a no-brainer. It is financially irresponsible—no, financial insanity—to spend \$3.7 billion America does not have, must borrow to get, and cannot afford to pay back when we can spend \$20 million and get better results and better border security.

## 23 IN 1—BRACKETTVILLE, TEXAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GALLEGO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, this morning, as I continue highlighting places in the 23rd District, which comprises nearly 24 percent of the land area of Texas, I would like to talk about the city of Brackettville. With a population of a little over 1,500 people, it is a small town with a big history.

Located as the county seat in Kinney County, Brackettville was once the drive-in movie capital of Texas. It was founded in 1852 as Las Moras, the name of a nearby spring and creek it feeds. The town initially was a supply stop on the old San Antonio-El Paso Road and a supply depot for the U.S. Army's Fort Clark, which was also established in 1852.

The town was later called Brackett, after Oscar B. Brackett, the owner of the first dry goods store in the area. It

is a name that still sticks among locals. In 1873, when a post office opened in the town, the "ville" was added to "Brackett" in order to differentiate it from another town.

The town grew exponentially in the 19th century with the expansion of the garrison at Fort Clark during the Indian wars. During that time, the town's fortune was completely tied to Fort Clark.

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For many years, Fort Clark was the headquarters of the famous Buffalo Soldiers, made up of African Americans. At that time, Brackettville had a large proportion of Black Seminoles, who were people of mixed African American and Seminole ancestry, who originated in Florida. The Black Seminoles were recruited by the U.S. to act as scouts for the Buffalo Soldiers, and they settled with their families in Brackettville. During slavery years, the Black Seminoles began living in a settlement in northern Mexico in order to escape conditions in the U.S. Their language, Afro-Seminole Creole, was developed in Florida. Impressively, even today, Afro-Seminole Creole is still spoken by some in Brackettville. After the Buffalo Soldiers moved out to Fort Clark with the waning of the Indian Wars, Brackettville became a cavalry post.

In 1914, the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts were finally disbanded, but these scouts had an amazing history of service. In fact, the Seminole cemetery near Brackettville has the highest number of Congressional Medal of Honor winners resting there per capita than has any other cemetery in the country. Virtually every cavalry unit in the U.S. Army was stationed at or was trained at Fort Clark at one time or another, and many famous soldiers, including John Pershing and George Patton, were there. Others just visited, people like George Armstrong Custer and Phil Sheridan, who nearly lost his life near Fort Clark to a Comanche war party. It was there that he made his famous statement: "If I owned Texas and hell, I would rent out Texas and live in hell."

In 1943, during World War II, the U.S. Army activated the 2nd Cavalry, which was the last horse-mounted unit. By 1944, even the 2nd Cavalry had been mechanized. Fort Clark, so long the center of mounted cavalry, was targeted for closure, but before it closed, it was used as a German prisoner of war camp.

Because of the families of soldiers at the fort and the African American veterans and the descendants of those who had settled in Brackettville during the war, the U.S. Government funded the construction of a high school for Black students. The school opened in 1944 so that the children of these veterans could be educated. At that time, Texas was still racially segregated. This high school is believed to have been the only federally built school of its kind between San Antonio and El Paso.

After Fort Clark closed in 1946, it had a variety of uses. It was converted to a resort or a retirement center, and the Historic District of Fort Clark is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. North of the town are the remains of the Alamo Village, built in the 1950s as the set for John Wayne's movie "The Alamo," and scenes of the 1969 comedy "Viva Max!" were also shot there.

I invite everyone to visit the city of Brackettville to learn more about the cultures and traditions of the incredible 23rd District of Texas.

## THE UNITED STATES—A NATION OF LAWS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DESJARLAIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, there is no denying that we are a kind and caring Nation. We have always welcomed those who have come to this country in order to make better lives for themselves and their families. In fact, many of the successes we have achieved in the fields of science, business, and art are directly attributable to individuals coming here with their ideas and ambitions.

But we are a Nation of laws.

Granting amnesty to those who have come here illegally not only erodes the rule of law, but it is unfair to the millions of folks who have respected our legal system and are working to gain citizenship in the right way. Further, undocumented immigration poses a threat to our national security. We have no way of tracking whether these individuals who are crossing our borders have ties to criminal enterprises, terrorism, or whether they are even carrying dangerous communicable diseases.

This is why it is critical we secure our borders.

The recent surge of illegal immigration at the border is a direct result of the Obama administration's failed policies. According to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, over the past year, there has been a 92 percent increase in the number of unaccompanied children crossing over our southwestern border. By usurping the legislative process and changing parts of existing laws while refusing to enforce others, the Obama administration has created an immigration policy that rewards those who have come here illegally.

Now the President has requested \$3.7 billion to purportedly combat this immigration crisis. Unfortunately, according to the administration's own proposal, only a small portion of that money—roughly 9 percent—would be used to actually secure our southern border. Rather, if history has shown us anything, it is that, if we give this President a blank check, he will simply squander it on furthering his far-left

agenda. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to reject the President's request and to, instead, use our resources, including the National Guard, in an effort to strengthen our border security and deport those who have come here illegally.

United States immigration policies are some of the most generous in the world, but we simply cannot condone illegal immigration. To that end, I will continue to support by any means necessary, whether legislative or legal, to ensure our current laws are enforced and to prevent this President from unilaterally implementing policies that circumvent our rule of law.

#### 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKEY'S INVASION OF CYPRUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark an anniversary that has pained the Cypriot and Hellenic communities for 40 years.

On July 20, 1974, in a blatant violation of international law, Turkey violently invaded Cyprus and captured much of the northern part of the island. Since the invasion, Turkey has occupied nearly 40 percent of Cyprus. Settlers were sent to inhabit homes that were previously owned by Greek Cypriots, forcibly relocating 160,000 Greek Cypriots. Religious artifacts and cultural relics have been destroyed in the wake of the Turkish Army's invasion, and after 40 years of displacement, they are now lost to time. Hundreds of churches and monasteries have been shamefully desecrated, losing all sense of their historic and religious significance.

Despite this neglect, the Republic of Cyprus recognizes Turkish Cypriots as citizens of the Republic of Cyprus, and provides numerous benefits to them as they would any citizen. Turkish Cypriots are entitled to official passports, which allow them to enjoy the benefits of EU membership, including the freedom of movement within EU member countries. Turkish Cypriots are recipients of free medical care from public hospitals, and they are eligible for benefits from the Republic's Social Insurance Scheme.

These policies have resulted in Greek and Turkish Cypriots living among each other with little trouble. Indeed, there have been millions of crossings at the Green Line without incident. So why the Turkish troops? Why the continued occupation? Despite the increase in citizen-level cohesion, the "Cyprus problem" remains a diplomatic challenge at the highest levels of government.

Greek and Turkish Cypriots deserve an end to this senseless division. In February of this year, it looked like progress was being made for legitimate negotiations that would lead to a real solution based on the rule of law. There is potential for significant economic

value from the discovery of offshore gas reserves in the eastern Mediterranean, which stand to benefit a unified Cyprus. By reaping these natural resources, Cyprus' allies—the United States, Greece, Israel, and many European countries—will also flourish.

In the face of the optimism for financial recovery and other incentives to unify, this year, Turkish Cypriot leaders have refused to implement even the simplest of confidence-building measures, which would be a sign of good faith and would foster an atmosphere of honest negotiation. The failure to enact the most basic, practical steps continues to impede a process for reunification that is long overdue. Words lose their meaning when inaction is all that follows.

Today, the United States stands in a unique role as a friend of both Cyprus and Turkey. As an honest broker to both sides, we can help them see that a unified future is far more promising than the present. The United States' relationship with all of its allies, Turkey included, must be based on shared values and mutual respect. At the core, the rule of law must be respected above all else. It is our duty to continually reinforce this message that 40 years of illegal occupation is 40 years too long.

It is time for Turkey to engage in sincere negotiations and in concrete confidence-building measures instead of going through the motions and creating more obstacles when tough decisions are on the table. Both sides know a solution will demand compromise and cooperation. The time to talk is nearing its end. The time to act is here. Cyprus has long been a strong and faithful ally of the United States, and we owe our support for both peace and the end of this illegal occupation.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, July 16, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*The Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 16, 2014 at 9:51 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 517.  
With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 25 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

#### PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS OF FORMER MEMBERS PROGRAM

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings during the former Members program be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and that all Members and former Members who spoke during the proceedings have the privilege of revising and extending their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The following proceedings were held before the House convened for morning-hour debate:

UNITED STATES ASSOCIATION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS 2014 ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Barbara Kennelly, vice president of Former Members of Congress Association, at 8:05 a.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Lord God of history, when former Members return to Congress, it offers an opportunity to reflect upon the great heritage of representative government that is America's historical legacy.

The record of Congress holds old and familiar stories, strong exhortations, repeated corrections, and consoling confirmations of hopes made real through difficult but persistent compromise in the forming of enduring programs and legislation.

May the presence here of former Members bring a moment of pause, where current Members consider the profiles they now form for future generations of Americans.

May all former Members be rewarded for their contributions to this constitutional Republic and continue to work and pray that the goodness and justice of this beloved country be proclaimed to the nations.

Bless all former Members who have died, as we especially remember today Robert Roe of New Jersey, who passed only yesterday. May their families and their constituents be comforted during a time of mourning.

And bless those here gathered, that they may bring joy and hope to the present age and supportive companionship to one another. Together, we call upon Your holy name, now and forever. Amen.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable Barbara Kennelly led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Ms. KENNELLY. We will be visited by some Members of Congress, and as they come in, I will recognize them.

Right now I recognize the chair, the Honorable Connie Morella.

Ms. MORELLA. Thank you, Barbara. It is always a distinct privilege to be